

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

IO-10 SP-02 L-02 DPW-01 SCA-01 PRS-01 NEAE-00 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 767

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, IZ, IR, US

SUBJ: KURDISH REFUGEES

REF: A. STATE 66705 (NOTAL) B. TEHRAN 2684 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY KNOWS OF ONE KURDISH APPROACH TO A HIGH-LEVEL GOI OFFICIAL REQUESTING EXTENSION OF APRIL 1 DEADLINE ON MOVEMENTS ACROSS IRAN-IRAQ BORDER. THIS WAS TURNED DOWN, AND NEW REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE WITH NO RESPONSE AS YET. HEAD OF KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICE IN TEHRAN TOLD NEWSMAN HE HAD APPROACHED UNAMED GOI OFFICIAL ON SAME MATTER WITH SAME INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS. TEHRAN ICRC DIRECTOR HANS BECKER MADE SIMILAR APPROACH THROUGH RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY.

2. GOI OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO TALK OF COMPLETE CLOSURE OF BORDER APRIL 1. GOVERNOR GENERAL OF KERMANSHAHAN PROVINCE TOLD TABRIZ CONSUL NEUMANN MARCH 24 BORDER WOULD BE CLOSED TIGHTLY APRIL 1 AND MADE NO MENTION OF ANY REQUEST FOR EXTENSION. HE SAID BARZANI
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WAS EXPECTED TO CROSS INTO IRAN IN EARLY APRIL (SIC). GOVERNOR

GENERAL SAID 60,000 KURDS IN HIS PROVINCE WERE BEING TOLD IRAN COULD NOT SUPPORT THEM INDEFINITELY, AND THEY WOULD BE EVENTUALLY DISPERSED WITHIN IRAN TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT AND SETTLE DOWN.

3. FINALLY, WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT TURKEY MAY ACCEDE TO A REQUEST THAT IT OPEN ITS BORDER FOR TRANSIT OF UNARMED KURDS TO IRAN. WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS REPORT ACCURATE OR WHAT TIME FRAME MAY BE ENVISAGED. PERHAPS AMEMBASSY ANKARA CAN ILLUMINATE.

4. FOREGOING AND INFO PROVIDED WASHINGTON VIA OTHER CHANNELS SUGGEST THERE IS LITTLE OR NO GOI DISPOSITION AT THIS TIME TO FOLLOW UP WITH BAGHDAD BARZANI'S PLEA FOR EXTENSION DEADLINE. AS WE SEE IT, RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE RESTS PRIMARILY WITH IRAQI GOVERNMENT AS BORDER CLOSURE DATE IS TIED TO EXPIRATION OF IRAQ'S KURDISH AMNESTY. DEPT AND BAGHDAD BETTER JUDGE THAN WE WHETHER DIRECT USG APPEAL TO IRAQI GOVERNMENT FEASIBLE OR DESIRABLE. IF DEPT WISHES MATTER TO BE PURSUED WITH IRAN, IT OUR JUDGMENT ONLY EFFECTIVE MEANS WOULD BE MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TO SHAH.

5. GIVEN IMPORTANT ROLES WE UNDERSTAND BOTH SADAT AND BOUMEDIENE PLAYED IN ENCOURAGING IRAN/IRAQ AGREEMENT, THEY APPEAR TO BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO PREVAIL ON SADDAM HUSSEIN TO GRANT EXTENSION OF DEADLINE, AND DEPT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER PURSUING THIS OPTION.
HELMS

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